

From Rabbi Elliot J. Cosgrove

"Mi'shenihnas Adar, Marbim Be'simcha" "All who enter Adar, increase with joy." The festival cycle of the Jewish year is structured to give voice to the full range of religious sentiments, and the message of Adar and the festival of Purim is one of joy and laughter. However strange it sounds, it is incumbent upon each and every one of us to take it upon ourselves to increase our level of merriment in the weeks preceding Purim. Some of us take very seriously this commandment to be funny—playing practical jokes upon one another, going to festive gatherings, getting tipsy on Purim, and the like.

To be sure, laughter does not figure prominently into the Biblical narratives. Though we all know of Sarah's laughter at the prediction of a future son, it is the exception which proves the rule—the Bible is simply not a very funny book. God never laughs in joy, only in derision. Communal laughter is only present in messianic times when all Israel returns to Zion (Psalm 126: "Then our mouths will be filled with laughter..."). Or, of course, the woman of valor as described by the book of Proverbs who can "laugh at the days to come."

Laughter is always described as an ideal, not as

a reality. The book of Ecclesiastes tells us that

"there is a time to weep and a time to laugh." How do we know which moments ask for what response? During this somber time in world events—should we really understand laughter as a religious imperative?

Laughter is a critical ingredient to our individual and national identities, both theological and psychological. Havelock Ellis once remarked that "the momentary expansion of the soul in laughter is, to however slight an extent, a religious exercise." And our own experience proves this to be true. The ability to laugh is one of the most powerful means in the human repertoire to reach out to God. Both tears and laughter are the human response to the incongruities of our lives, the ironies, the disappointments and the mysteries which checker our existence. Aviva Zornberg reminds us that "to laugh is to confront the pressures of

necessity on one's individual destiny and one's infinite desires." Far too often we indulge tears and forget that we are also given the gift of laughter as a premier coping mechanism for the human soul.

The great theologian Reinhold Neihbur once reflected that humor "is an expression of the freedom of the human spirit, of its capacity to stand outside of life and itself and view the whole scene. Humor is a proof of the capacity of the self to gain a vantage point from which it is able to look at itself. A good sense of humor is thus a byproduct of self-transcendence."

When I meet with a wedding couple, there are many things I

look for, but perhaps the most essential element is a sense of humor. If a couple is unable to laugh at each other or with each other, it is a red flag for me. The ability to laugh at one's self brings with it a healthy sense of human vulnerability, that flaws are not something to hide from, but to rejoice in—and this ability points to lasting emotional security. Laughter is essential to the resiliency of an individual and certainly a couple. If you can laugh at a problem, there is a chance you can move beyond the pain. Laughter and humor alone do not solve problems, but

they can serve as a balm to soothe a painful sting. As individuals, and as a community, we need to constantly monitor and cultivate our ability to find humor in the world. This is a lifetime project—but the month of Adar is when we pay most attention to our need for laughter.

Ivdu et Hashem b'simhah. "Serve the Lord in joy" the psalmist tells us. Let's commit this time before Purim towards laughter and humor. Step outside of yourself, even for just a moment, but long enough to look at who you are and giggle. Come celebrate with the community on Purim, watch the Purim Spiel, and if nobody has made fun of you yet—I hope that I will! There is plenty of pretense, seriousness and consternation in this world. Rest assured it will still be there for you after Purim. But for the moment, lighten up! It is...after all...a commandment.

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THIS MONTH'S COVER: detail from "Purim" by Chaim Gross, The Park Avenue Synagogue Collection.



Schedule of Religious Services

EXCEPT AS NOTED

Daily Minyan Monday-Friday at 7:15 am; Sundays and Legal Holidays at 9:00 am. **Ma'ariv** Sunday-Thursday at 5:45 pm. **Hashkama** Saturdays and Yom Tov at 7:30 am.

Information is subject to change.

Confirm at www.pasyn.org or with the office.

Friday, March 6 10 Adar Candle lighting: 5:34 pm

Weekend of Study

5:15 pm Tot Kabbalat Shabbat 6:15 pm Friday Night Special: Shabbat Musical Service Followed by Dinner and Speaker:

Jewish Leadership | \$ ©

Saturday, March 7 11 Adar

Shabbat Zakor

Weekend of Study

Parashat T'tzavveh

8:45 am Parashat Hashavua

9:15 am Sanctuary Service

9:15 am Shabbat Hakavod 9:30 am Havurah Service

1:00 pm Lunch and Study

5:45 pm Mincha

Monday, March 9 13 Adar

Ta'anit Esther

7:45 pm Full Megillah Reading

Tuesday, March 10 14 Adar

Purim

6:45 am Full Megillah Reading

Wednesday, March 11 15 Adar

Shushan Purim

Friday, March 13 17 Adar

Candle lighting: 6:42 pm

Children's Birthday Service

6:15 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, March 14 18 Adar

Parashat Ki Tissa Shabbat Parah

8:45 am Parashat Hashavua

9:15 am Sanctuary Service

6:00 pm Mincha

Friday, March 20 24 Adar

Candle lighting: 6:49 pm

6:15 pm Friday Night Special:

Shabbat Musical Service Special Singles Service and Kiddush

Saturday, March 21 25 Adar

Parashat Va-yak-hel,

Shabbat HaHodesh

No Hebrew School

8:45 am Parashat Hashavua

9:15 am Sanctuary Service

9:30 am Havurah Service

6:00 pm Mincha

Thursday, March 26 1 Nisan

Rosh Hodesh Nisan

Friday, March 27 2 Nisan

Candle lighting: 6:57 pm

6:15 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, March 28 3 Nisan

Parashat Va-yikra

No Hebrew School

8:45 am Parashat Hashavua

9:15 am Sanctuary Service

11:15 am Tot Shabbat

6:00 pm Mincha

Purim observances

Sunday, March 8

10:00-11:00 am

Esther Revealed

Study Session with Rabbi Graetz

11:00 am-2:00 pm

Purim Carnival

Monday, March 9

5:30 pm

Family Megillah Reading and

Costume Parade

6:15 pm

All Dressed Up and Someplace

to Go | Light Festive Meal | \$ ©

7:00 pm

Purim Spiel

7:45 pm

Full Megillah Reading

Tuesday, March 10

6:45 am

Full Megillah Reading

Rabbi Elliot J. Cosgrove and Rabbi Michael J. Graetz will preach and conduct the services together with Cantor David Lefkowitz and Cantor Nancy Abramson and the Synagogue Choir, with Neil Robinson at the organ.

Celebrating a Simcha?

A birthday, anniversary, engagement, wedding, new grandchild, or anything else for which you are grateful? Sponsor a breakfast Kiddush any weekday after our Morning Minyan.

For more information, contact Lynn Schneider at 212-369-2600 or lschneider@pasyn.org.

Your synagogue is under watchful care

strative function of our synagogue is to

hile our clergy prepares for the Purim and Pesach festivals, the rite of spring for the admin-

istrative function of our synagogue is to prepare our financial budget for the following fiscal year.

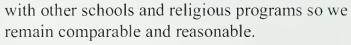
It will ultimately be approved by your Board of Trustees in April and presented to the entire Congregation at the Annual Meeting on May 14th, 2009.

In these challenging financial times and in an era of increased demands by stakeholders for further transparency, I decided to use this month's column to explain how we budget for all of the functions of Park Avenue Synagogue and invest our endowment assets.

Our broad budget principle for the past six years has been to budget in such a way as to have the revenues from various sources at least equal expenses without drawing from our endowment, and to use the endowment for unexpected expenses—a reserve or cushion—or important capital projects.

In creating a budget we look simultaneously at the revenue and expense levels required to provide the best possible sanctuary services, pastoral support, and Jewish education—from early childhood to religious school to lifelong learning—and to Jewish programs for all age and interest groups. In a word: we determine how best to serve the community. At the same time we strive to keep all dues, tuitions, and charges at affordable levels, while paying our clergy, faculty, staff, and employees competitive and attractive salaries.

Each area of the synagogue is asked to submit its program plan along with the financial resources needed to accomplish those goals. Separate meetings are held with each department, and each conversation is specific to the department. For example, some departments have no revenue (administrative support, building maintenance, the library or cantorial and choir activities). Others, such as the schools, set tuition based on benchmarks



While this "bottom up" process is underway, we do a "top down" analysis to budget revenues from all sources. We benchmark our dues levels with other synagogues of our scale and scope, and typically budget Kol Nidre appeal and Gala revenues at amounts equal to or slightly less than the current year. This gives us a reasonable planned revenue base that will be available for the services and programs the professionals wish

to pursue. When all of this information is gathered and discussed among the leadership, a budget proposal is sent to the Board Finance Committee which reviews it in great detail. Following approval or refinements it is then sent to the Board for approval and presentation to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

Capital spending is similarly planned. We have a list of capital projects to undertake to maintain and enhance our historic building. They are prioritized based on the institution's requirements and affordability. A committee of the Board is now working on a multi-year building plan.

As a result of the generosity of our membership, the fiscal disciplines described above, and the success of the recently concluded Torah Project as part of our 125th anniversary celebration, our endowment assets have grown meaningfully over the past six years and we have no debt. The Investment Committee of the Board has been very conservative for many years and despite the much publicized volatility and losses in the investment community, our synagogue has been able to retain its endowment assets by investing approximately 90% in short term government guaranteed or insured assets. While the returns on these financial instruments do not enable us to materially grow the endowment at this time, the endowment assets do provide us a cushion if the difficult economic environment persists. We will always need annual support from our members as you will hear from me on at our next Kol Nidre service, but rest assured that your synagogue is under watchful care of the leadership of many professionals and volunteers. If you would like to learn more, please plan to come to our Congregational Annual Meeting on May 14th.



Find the latest news, events and times for all synagogue-related activities.

Information about classes, programs, events, people, organizations and meetings.

Transcripts of Shabbat sermons.

www.pasyn.org

Sign up for e-mail notifications. Communicate with clergy and staff.



Men's Club

Passover Wine Tasting

Thursday, March 19 | 7:00 pm | No charge

A wonderful selection of kosher for Passover wines will be provided along with hors d'oeuvres. Everyone is welcome.

P.A.S. Singles Committee

An evening of spirituality and fun!!!!!

Friday, March 20 | 6:15 pm Services | No charge | ©

Join us for Friday Evening Shabbat services, which will be enhanced by a special musical combo. Married couples are definitely encouraged to come and to bring a single friend. Please join us and be a part of a wonderful evening. Afterward, we will provide a light kiddush buffet and beverages.

© **To reserve your place** in advance of the evening, please call or e-mail P. Fred Mirsky-212-371-3933 or tcrmadv@aol.com

Sisterhood

Yiddish Club

Tuesday, March 17 | 1:00 pm

The Yiddish Club will hold its monthly meeting in the Rothschild Library. Coffee and cake will be served. Join us for Yiddish conversation and culture—poetry, stories, music, theater, and film. Even if your Yiddish is very rusty, don't hesitate to come.

We are a warm, friendly group.

For more information *and a schedule of meetings, please call Florence Solomon at 212-369-3856.*

Film about the Art of Claude Monet

Tuesday, March 24 | 1:00 pm | No charge

Claude Monet, (1840–1926) and his friend the Jewish painter Camille Pissarro were the founders of the Impressionist movement. Join Sisterhood for a beautiful film about the life and work of Monet. Everyone is invited to view and discuss this film. A light lunch will be provided. Monet's lush summer landscapes are the perfect antidote to a cold winter afternoon in New York.

WEG

Women's Evening Group encourages its members and all the women of the congregation to participate in two WEG programs/events in March.

March 9: Attend the hilarious Purim Spiel followed by the reading (for adults) of the Megillah. See adjacent article and page 3

March 31: The famous Women's Seder comes to P.A.S. under the auspices of New York Region of Hadassah. Cantor Nancy Abramson will conduct the Seder using a reworking of the traditional text by Ruth Gursky. All women of the congregation are invited to participate. Reservations are required. See page 6 for more details.

First we start with Mordechai, Achashverosh was his king. Vashti got the royal boot, Esther got the wedding ring...

(Try singing the lyrics above to the tune of "Do-Re-Mi" from "The Sound of Music.")

Purim Spiel

"The Megillah According to Rodgers & Hammerstein"

Monday, March 9 7:00 pm No Charge

Riding on the success and critical acclaim of last year's Purim Spiel, this year we are proud to present an all new spiel for Purim 2009!

You'll witness our Purim players display their singing, dancing and comedic abilities.

Participants, on stage and behind the scenes, include director Lisa Rizzi, pianist Lou (The Pit) Bernstein, choreographer Harriet Feiwel, script doctor Ethan Gologor, costume director Marlene Muskin, scenery director Ellen Alt, lighting director Dan Rios, and Sandy Mayerson, Ray Treiger, Charles Charrow, Lynn Schaul, Gabe Schaul, Bob Becker, Marcia Stone, Maxine Dovere, Merwin Goldsmith, Lisa Siegel, Arlene Isaacs, Abe Lebovic, Marian Levitt, Terry Solomon, Linda Klempner, Ronnie Parker, David Parker, Robin Taubin, Carol Goldstein, and Gil Smuskowitz, with clergy advisor Cantor Nancy Abramson.

You've never experienced anything like this version of the story of Esther, nor has the story of Esther ever been this entertaining! So, come out of the cold of winter and step into this musical, magical Purim story for what is sure to be a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Park Avenue Synagogue Happenings continued



Annual Haggadah Fair and Sale

Monday, March 16–Sunday, March 29 Hours to be posted Edmond De Rothschild Library

Get a head start on Seder planning. Choose haggadot, as well as guides for making a meaningful Seder, Passover cookbooks, children's stories and props to enliven your celebration.



P.A.S. Community Seders | \$ © immediately following Evening Services

First Night | Wednesday April 8 | 8:15 pm Second Night | Thursday, April 9 | 8:15 pm

\$ © Reservations required.

\$75/member, \$125/non-member, \$50/child under 8. For reservations, contact Naomi Lipnick at 212- 369-2600 ext. 121 or nlipnick@pasyn.org. Please make your reservations no later than Thursday, April 2nd.

ABOVE: Colvin Seder Plate, The P.A.S. Collection

Cantorial Search Committee: Town Hall Meetings | ©

We are looking for your input! Come to one of our town hall meetings to contribute your ideas as to what attributes and role the new cantor can play in the life of the P.A.S. community. These meetings are open to all synagogue members.

© **R.S.V.P.** to Heidi Drassinower in the Main Office at hdrassinower@pasyn.org or 212-369- 2600 ext. 111.

Evenings at 7:00 pm | Wednesday, March 11

Thursday, April 2

Sundays at 10:00 am | March 15

April 12 May 3

Friday at 9:15 am | April 24



A very special event is being planned to celebrate our beloved Cantor David Lefkowitz as he retires. Please mark your calendars for June 7th at 6:00 pm. Details to follow

Tikkun Olam Committee for Community Outreach

Passover Food Drive | Tuesday, March 17 to Thursday, April 2

The *Tikkun Olam* Committee is partnering with the Congregational School to collect *hametz*—food not kosher for Passover—as well as food that is kosher for Passover. There will be collection bins both in the lobby and outside the Congregational School's offices on the third floor. Remember our Food Drive when you're cleaning out your pantry! *The food will be donated to City Harvest.*

A Women's Seder: An Inter-Generational Passover Celebration

Tuesday, March 31 | 5:45 pm | \$ ©

Park Avenue Synagogue will host the annual Women's Seder, sponsored by the New York Region of Hadassah, and conducted by Cantor Nancy Abramson.

Women (and men) of the congregation and community are warmly welcomed to join in this evening of happy revelation and inspiration with singing and dancing and chanting a newly rewritten version of the familiar Passover story followed by a delicious meal, catered by Newman & Leventhal.

Grandmothers, mothers, daughters, aunts and cousins can make up their own family tables. Friends are encouraged to bring friends to share this experience with them. You do not need to be a member of either Park Avenue Synagogue or Hadassah to participate.

Cost per person is \$150, \$50 of which is a tax deductible contribution to Hadassah, to whom checks should be made out. Children, ages 8–14, accompanied by an adult guest, may be entitled to a limited number of reduced price tickets of \$50 a child.

5 © For more information, or to make your reservation(s), please contact the New York Region of Hadassah office at 212-303-7433 or nyregion@hadassah.org



Park Avenue Synagogue is your community. Our clergy is there for you.

Please let us know when you need us—if someone is ill or in the hospital—or when you want to share your good news: a new baby, a marriage, or other simcha. We want to know; but you have to tell us.

Please call the Rabbi's office at 212-369-2600 ext 120.

Shalom

Park Avenue Synagogue warmly welcomes these new members to our congregational family:

Stacey and David Kanbar Reba Miller Stacy and Lawrence Ostow Dorie and Michael Rosenband Deborah and Gadi Slade Sherrie and Edmund Soleymani

Condolences

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Rabbi Elliot J. Cosgrove's beloved grandmother, Sylvia Kagan, in Manchester, England. Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with Rabbi Cosgrove and his family.

Park Avenue Synagogue extends heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved of our congregation and their families:

Family and friends of the late Robert Furman;
Lucy and Robert Becker, on the loss of her mother, Matilda Goldberg;
Andrew and Phyllis Fier, on the loss of their grandson, David Gitlin;
Laurie Levin Harris, on the loss of her mother, Elise Bacharach Levin;
Rose Less, on the loss of her brother-in-law, Lester Elias;
Dr. Harris M. Nagler, on the loss of his sister, Lauren B. Nagler;
Tamara and Scott Spolan, on the loss of their daughter, Arielle Hart.

Do you know someone ill, elderly or homebound?

The P.A.S. *Bikur Cholim* Caring Committee reaches out to those in need through telephone calls, visits, and holiday packages. The Caring Committee is comprised of trained volunteers committed to providing confidential hands-on support and companionship to members of our congregation.

To arrange for this mitzvah, please call Rabbi Cosgrove's office at 212-369-2600 ext. 120.

In loving memory of Dr. Albert and Phyllis L. Cornell

Note: if you have family news to share with the congregation, please contact Lynn Schneider at 212-369-2600 or lschneider@pasyn.org.

News from Our Schools

A Visit to the Jewish Museum

Ron Koas, Education Director

am a great believer in the idea that after teaching something in class, an educator should try to implement his/her lessons outside the classroom. That is why we take our students on visits to various places throughout the year. We teach about the mitzvot of visiting the sick and honoring the elderly, and then we bring our students to a nursing

home to sing and spread good cheer before Rosh Hashanah every year. We learn about Israel and its history, and then encourage students to march in the Salute to Israel Parade. We study about Shabbat and the rituals involved, and then the students participate in a Friday night service and Shabbat dinner with their families.

It is for this reason that we took our sixth graders on a visit to the Jewish Museum. These youngsters have focused this year



on the Middle/Late Bronze Age (2000-1200 BCE), the Iron Age (1200-586 BCE), and the Greco-Roman period (330 BCE-330 CE). Through close examination of original artifacts and architectural fragments, they drew conclusions about people who lived long ago. Our school tour included participation in a simulated archaeological dig, exploration of the ancient civilizations galleries, and a hands-on studio art project.

The children also were privileged to consider the experience of immigration through a look at paintings, photographs, and artifacts from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They discussed what motivates people to immigrate to a new land and the obstacles they face.

I am very proud of our pre-b'nai mitzvah students. They have absorbed so much of what we teach them. It brings me so much *nachas* as an educator to see our students at their best.

School Schedule see page 15 for complete calendar

Thursday, March 5 | 5:30-7:00 pm | Vav B'nei Mitzvah

Saturday, March 7 | 9:15 am | Shabbat Hakavod

Monday, March 9 | No School

Tuesday, March 10 | during school hours | Vav tefillin workshop

Thursday, March 12 | during school hours | Vav tefillin workshop

Saturday, March 14 | No School

Saturday, March 21 | No School

Saturday, March 28 | No School



March Birthday Celebration

Friday, March 13 | 6:15 pm

Bring Shabbat into your children's lives by celebrating their birthdays at Park Avenue Synagogue. All children with birthdays in

March will be called up to the bimah and honored at our Birth-day Celebration Service. Come as a family and celebrate. Call Rabbi Michael Graetz' office for more information.

March Tot Services

Friday, March 6 | 5:00 pm | Tot Kabbalat Shabbat

Join us for Friday evening services for toddlers and children of pre-school age, parents, grandparents and friends.

Saturday, March 28 | 11:15 am-12:00 pm | **Tot Shabbat** | *Endowed in loving memory of Lea Oberdorfer* P.A.S. offers toddlers and preschoolers the wonderful opportunity to celebrate together with their parents, grandparents and friends on Shabbat.



P.A.S. Art Gallery | Located on the 2nd floor Mezzanine

"God's Vase," Photographs by Rabbi Michael Graetz

Give yourself a preview of spring—be sure to see this exhibition before it closes!

Through his evocative photography, Rabbi Graetz takes us on a journey to view God's creations as they bloom with the winter rains, turning the dry sands of the desert into a veritable vase of flowers. Images of the desert land-scape and its flora, accompanied by Biblical text sources, offer a unique perspective on Israel and its extraordinary natural beauty.

A limited edition of prints are available for sale: 16 x 20 \$100, 18 x 24 \$125, with a signed certificate from the artist. All proceeds benefit P.A.S. Please contact Sarah Gribetz at sgribetz@pasyn.org or 212-369-2600 ext. 142 for more information.



"Tikkun" Exhibition by Aliza Olmert opening April 1

A new exhibition of conceptual photographs and constructions by Aliza Olmert, entitled "Tikkun," will open April 1 and extend to July 15 of this year.

"Art suggests options for a renewed ordering of realities," says Aliza Olmert. She confronts the reconstruction of fragments and shards—fastening, gluing, splicing together—attempting to develop a system of defenses against further breakage.

Olmert's conceptual art offers impossible constructions that convey the fragility of existence, the obstacles to survival, and the imperative to sustain life. Tikkun, the Jewish charge to heal and restore balance in the world, is expressed through the mending of the shattered fragments in her haunting works. Olmert aims at existential content that expresses the essence of the human condition and transmits universal aspirations, transcending the specificity of culture, heritage, and history. Her valiant efforts to repair damage, to regain

the whole, by piercing, pinning, and wiring disintegrating fragments offers deep symbolic meaning fraught with poignancy and vulnerability.

"As a daughter of survivors of the Holocaust and as an artist whose life has been shaped by Israel's struggle for security, Olmert's works allude to the emotional toll of successive wars and ongoing terror," notes Jean Bloch Rosensaft, Chair of the P.A.S. Gallery Committee. "Olmert's art manifests the ineffable strengths that have ensured survival. This exhibition represents our synagogue's commitment to Israeli-North American cultural exchange and our mission of affirming the vitality and creativity of the universal human spirit."

Aliza Olmert was born in the displaced persons camp of Eschwege, Germany in 1946 and emigrated to Israel in 1949. She served in the Israeli Army as a topography instructor, received a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1970), and studied landscape architecture at the Bezalel Academy of Arts in Jerusalem (1985-1988).

Olmert's sculpture, painting, installation, and photography have been widely exhibited in Israel, the United States, and internationally. She is also a writer for theater, film and television.



Evening Book Discussion Group | Monday, March 23 | 8:00 pm | "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak

The narrator of this unusual novel is Death. The story, which takes place during World War II, is about a 9-year-old girl who lives with a foster family in Germany. Although she has not learned to read, she steals a book: the "Grave-digger's Handbook," which her foster father reads to lull her to sleep when she is awakened by nightmares. As she grows up, she continues to steal books and to encounter an unusual group of friends. The story is full of chance, folly, and fulfilled expectation...according to the review of Francisca Goldsmith, of the Berkeley Public Library.





Co-sponsored by the P.A.S. Friends of JTS Committee, the Havurah, the Young Couple's Group and Men's Club

Friday, March 6 | following 6:15 pm Friday Night Special Musical Service | \$ ©

Jewish Leadership in the Bible: Shabbat Dinner

Dr. Benjamin D. Sommer, Professor of Bible and Ancient Semitic Languages, JTS

\$© \$35/person. Registration required. Contact Sarah Gribetz at sgribetz@pasyn.org or 212-369-2600 ext 142



Saturday, March 7 | 9:30 am

Havurah Service

New Insights on Parashat T'tzavveh with Dr. Benjamin D. Sommer.

Saturday, March 7 | 12:30 pm | No charge

Lunch and Study with Dr. Benjamin D. Sommer—Stay after services for an extended Kiddush lunch. Bring your coffee for an hour of study.

DR. BENJAMIN D. SOMMER is known as the newest voice on Biblical scholarship at JTS. We are delighted to have him join us for Shabbat.

© Please confirm your attendance with Sarah Gribetz, at sgribetz@pasyn.org or 212-369-2600 ext. 142.

March Tuesday Evenings of Learning | \$ @

Tradition and Change at 50

March 3, 10, 17, 24 | 6:30-7:45 pm

Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove, instructor

"Tradition and Change," a seminal work on the essence of Conservative Judaism, was edited by Mordecai Waxman and published in 1958. We will read essays from this text to learn about the evolution of Conservative Judaism into the 21st century.

Straight Out of the Talmud: Elisha ben Abuya

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 | 8:00-9:30 pm

Rabbi Joseph Brodie, instructor

Elisha ben Abuya peered into the forbidden unknown. He became an apostate. What were the implications of his defections? Could he do *teshuva*? Our own Rabbi Milton Steinberg wrote "As a Driven Leaf" trying to understand this enigmatic rabbinic sage. We will look at original Talmudic texts to draw our own conclusions.

\$ © Registration required for each course. \$50/member; \$75/non-member. Contact Sarah Gribetz at sgribetz@pasyn.org or 212 369 2600 ext 142



Torah Study for Women, led by noted scholar Naomi Graetz

Evening and morning groups are being formed to accommodate the varying schedules of P.A.S. women members. Please contact Sarah Gribetz at sgribetz@pasyn.org or 212-369-2600 ext. 142 for more information.





Parashat Hashavua

Saturdays | 8:45–9:15 am | Ari Saks, instructor | Rothschild Library

Join our Torah reader, Ari Saks, for an intimate discussion of the Torah portion. Come to one or come to all sessions.

Monday Night is Hebrew at P.A.S. | \$@

Trimester 1 (Fall) | October 27 December 15

Trimester 2 (Winter) | January 5-March 16 (No class, March 9 (Purim))

Trimester 3 (Spring) | March 23–May 11 (no class April 13/Pesach)

Siddur (Prayer Book) Hebrew is for students interested in developing their proficiency in our prayer services—whether the daily Minyan, Shabbat or holidays.

Class	Instructor	Time
Siddur Hebrew I	Dina Mann	6:30-7:30 pm
Siddur Hebrew II	Sarah Gribetz	6:30-7:30 pm

Modern Hebrew is intended for those students interested in learning to read, write and speak modern Hebrew.

Class	Instructor	Time
Modern Hebrew I	Andi Meiseles	7:30-8:30 pm
Modern Hebrew II	Andi Meiseles	6:30-7:30 pm
Modern Hebrew III	Varda Hubara	7:30-8:30 pm

Segistration required: \$50/member; \$75/non-member per trimester. Contact Sarah Gribetz at sgribetz@pasyn.org or 212-369-2600 ext. 142.



Parenting Through a Jewish Lens

Wednesdays, March 4, 11 | 10:30~11:30 am | Sarah Gribetz and Dina Mann, instructors | ©

Explore the joys, delights and challenges of raising a child in the 21st century. Modern and traditional Jewish texts will provide parents of children of varying ages a context to raise strongly identified Jewish families.

© To register contact Sarah Gribetz at sgribetz@pasyn.org or 212-369-2600 ext. 142



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Andrew Fier, President



Appointed Caterers To Park Avenue Synagogue 50 East 87 Street New York City (212) 427-7912



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Adult Education continued

Ongoing Classes no pre-registration necessary, come whenever you are able to



Doing Jewish | Wednesdays | March 4, 11 | 11:30–12:30 | Marga Hirsch, P.A.S. Librarian

In this series of six sessions we seek to demystify topics such as the Jewish calendar, the basics of trope (Cantillation skills), the difference between Midrash and Mishnah, and why Elijah gets to come to the Seder. Attend one session or all.



Essential Essays | Tuesday mornings | 8:00-8:45 am | Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove, instructor

Join us to discuss essays on Jewish philosophy, theology and thought. Essays are available for pick-up in the flyer rack near the front desk.



Jewish Thought in Our Day | Tuesdays | 11:00 am | Rabbi Michael Graetz, instructor

We will read and discuss short essays which focus on Jewish thought and theology in our days. They are written by contemporary writers about the philosophy and religious approaches of Jews in the 21st century.



Mishnah Musings | Thursdays | 8:00-8:45 am | Rabbi Michael Graetz, instructor

Join us to discuss the most basic text of Jewish practice, the Mishnah. We will explore the philosophy of Jewish religious life as expressed in the second most important book in Jewish religion after the Bible. Study sheets are available in the flyer rack near the front desk.



Lunch 'n' Learn | Thursdays | 11:00 am

Share a learning experience with fellow congregants and the Synagogue's professional leadership. Topics, presented by members of our Clergy and Education staff, are varied and lend themselves to stimulating discussion. Join us anytime, bring a friend and a kosher dairy lunch (coffee will be served).



It's Never Too Early to Get Ready for Passover:

Passover Family Art Workshop

Sunday, March 29 | 10:00–11:30 am Ellen Alt and Sarah Gribetz, instructors



Sunday March 29 | 10:00–11:00 am

Rabbi Michael Graetz, instructor

Prepare for your Seder by exploring new Haggadot and interpretations of our Passover tradition.

Insights into the Haggadah

Tuesday, March 31 | 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove, instructor

Reading the Haggadah takes preparation too. Spend an hour getting ready for the Seder.

Please contact Sarah Gribetz at sgribetz@pasyn.org" or 212-369-2600 ext. 142 if you plan to attend

The Challenge of Writing Hebrew in English Letters

By Marga Hirsch, P.A.S. Librarian



t an Editorial Committee meeting for a Jewish newspaper, I once participated in an impassioned debate over how to spell Hanukkah. We reviewed

that for many years. The most common spelling was Chanukah, but somewhere along the line,

someone decided to represent the initial letter with H instead of Ch, and someone else decided that since the Hebrew letter which makes the k-sound has a dot in it, it should be represented with a double k. Over time, the most common spelling came to be Hanukkah. At the end of the long discussion, someone wailed, "But what is the correct way?" The correct way is het, nun, vav, kaf, hey, but there's no single correct way to write that in English!

People debate over whether a transliteration should correspond letter-for-letter with the Hebrew letters that it represents, or whether a transliteration should enable someone who doesn't read Hebrew at all to pronounce the words correctly. Should we write *todah*, with an *h* at the end, because the Hebrew word ends in the letter hey, or should we write toda, which does the job? Another debate is over consistency. If we choose toda, then do we also write *Tora*, even though we are used to seeing *Torah*? Does familiar usage override consistency for words like Torah, mitzvah, and sukkah, which appear in English dictionaries?

In this issue of the P.A.S. Bulletin, you may have noticed changes in transliterations that you've become accustomed to



humash.

over the years. This is not an accident or a lapse in proofreading. In an effort to keep transliterations consistent throughout the synagogue, the Bulletin has adopted the transliteration guide used by the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Rabbinical Association. This means that the transliterations of brakhot that appear in the Bulletin will be the same as the ones that appear in Siddur Sim Shalom, and the transliterations of the names of Torah portions on the Bulletin calendar will be the same as in the Etz Hayim

The goal of the transliteration system that JTS endorses is to enable readers to quickly recognize familiar Hebrew words and expressions and to produce a reasonably accurate pronunciation of unfamiliar Hebrew words and expressions. The system is not completely "reversible;" that is, the transliterations don't correspond exactly to the letters and vowels of the Hebrew originals. At the same time, they are consistent enough so that someone who is learning to read Hebrew can match up the transliteration with the original as part of the transition to reading from the Hebrew letters.

If you would like to see the JTS transliteration guide, or if you have questions about the art of transliteration, or about the transliteration of specific words, come talk to Marga in the library.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: We are indebted to Marga Hirsch for her work and contributions to this effort. Together, we are attempting to make our usages clear and consistent.

Edmond de Rothschild Library Hours

Monday: 12:00 pm-9:00 pm

Tuesday & Wednesday: 10:30 am-6:30 pm | Thursday: 12:00 pm-6:30 pm

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MARCH 2009 Adar/Nisan 5769 www.pasyn.org 212-369-2600

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Ken & Phyllis Makovsky, in honor of Abraham Auerbach's 99th birthday.

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Lisa Siegal, in memory of her parents, Bobbi and Abe Siegal.

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Yiddish Club Fund

Florence Solomon, praying for the speedy recovery of Bea & Selma Hollander.

Florence Solomon, for the speedy recovery of Esther Abramson.

Florence Solomon, in memory of her beloved sister Marion Fine

Synagogue Offerings

Dr. John Abroon, in memory of his beloved grandmother Touran Benhuri.

Philip Agisim, in honor of his birthday.

Clarence Barasch, in memory of his beloved father Morris Barasch.

Uri Behar, in memory of his beloved father Moris Behar Sr.

Lori Bilkis, in memory of her beloved father Anthony D'Amato.

Alan Block, in memory of his beloved father Paul Block.

Esta Chavkin, in memory of her beloved mother Janet Greenberg.

Jeffrey and Katherine Chavkin, in honor of their anniversary.

Roberta Chernov, in honor of Florence Seligman for her hospitality. Sherry & Joel Cherwin, in memory of Jacob Sher, father of Karen Bass.

Alice, Michael & Stella Cohen, in honor of Georgia Dylan Cohen's Baby Naming.

Martha & Jon Cohen, in honor of Henry & Karen Glanternik.

Sherry Cohen, in memory of Arielle Hart, beloved daughter of Tamara Spolan.

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Paul & Anne Corwin, in memory of Paul Shalita.

Sarrae Crane.

Dr. Juliet Diller, in honor of her birthday.

Edwin & Elaine Sollar Eisen, in appreciation of the fine assistance and compassion given us in our time of need by Rabbi Lincoln, Rabbi Cosgrove, Rabbi Graetz, Cantor Lefkowitz and Cantor Abramson.

Fran Evans, in memory of her beloved husband, Melvin I. Evans.

Frederick N. Frank, in honor of the installation of Rabbi Cosgrove.

Karen Frankel, in memory of her beloved sister Dr. Shelley Laby Gottheim.

Edgar Freitag, in memory of his beloved father Fred Freitag.

Frederick Friedman, in memory of his beloved father Abraham Friedman.

Mary Goldman, in memory of her beloved sister Shirley Joselow.

Mary Goldman, in memory of her beloved husband Bertram Schwartz.

Herta & Ernie Gottschalk, in memory of Sybil Lincoln, beloved mother of Rabbi David Lincoln

David Greenbaum, in memory of his beloved father Walter Greenbaum.

Leon Heller, in memory of his beloved mother, May Heller.

Susan Heller, in honor of her birthday.

Marvin S. Heyman, in appreciation.

Barbara Jacobs, in memory of her beloved father George Schlissel.

Stephen Judlowe, in memory of his beloved father Abram Judlowe.

Barbara & David Julie, in memory of her beloved mother, Nettie Goodman on her 15th Yahrzeit.

David Julie, in honor of his Aliyah on Shabbat Va-yetzei

Barbara Kaplan, in memory of her beloved father Dr. Abraham Isadore Fingeroth.

Miriam Kaplan, in memory of her beloved sister Estelle Florence.

Marilyn Katz, in memory of her beloved father Irving Greenberg.

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Sandra Mayerson, in memory of her beloved father Manuel D. Mayerson.

Roxandra Meron, in memory of Rabbi Lincoln's mother, Sybil Lincoln.

Andrea Milstein, in memory of her beloved mother Edna Wintner. Martin Milston, in memory of his beloved father Louis Milston.

Martin & Mendelle Milston, in honor of the birth of the grandchildren of Jean & Menachem Rosensaft.

Dr. Fredric Mintz, in memory of his beloved father Arby Mintz.

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Janet Moss, in memory of Sybil Lincoln, beloved mother of Rabbi Lincoln.

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Dr. Carol Mutterperl, in memory of her beloved daughter Gail Mutterperl.

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Judith and Francis Zankel, in honor of Geoff Colvin.

14 Park Avenue Synagogue Bulletin

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday		Frida	Reality of
5 Adar	S 6 Adar	3 7 Adar	4 8 Adar	5 9 Adar	6 10 Adar Candle lighting: 5:34 pm Weekend of Study	T 11 Adar Parashat Tizavveh Shabbat Zachor Weekend of Study
	6:30 pm Siddur Hebrew I 6:30 pm Modern Hebrew II 6:30 pm Siddur Hebrew II 7:30 pm Modern Hebrew I 7:30 pm Modern Hebrew I	8:00 am Jewish Essays 11:00 am Jewish Thought 6:30 pm Tradition and Change at 50 8:00 pm Out of the Talmud	10:30 am Parenting Workshop 11:30 am Doing Jewish	8:00 am Mishnah Musings 11:00 am Lunch 'n' Learn 5:30 Vav B'nai Mitzvah Meeting	5:15 pm Tot Kabbalat Shabbat 6:15 pm Friday Night Special: Shabbat Musical Service Followed by Dinner and Speaker Jewish Leadership \$ ©	8:45 am Parashat Hashavua 9:15 am Sanctuary Service 9:15 am Shabbat Hakavod 9:30 am Havurah Service :: 1:00 pm Lunch and Study 5:45 pm Mincha
3 12 Adar	9 13 Adar Ta'anit Esther No Hebrew School	10 14 Adar Purim	15 Adar Shushan Purim	12 16 Adar	13 17 Adar Candle lighting: 6:42 pm	14 18 Adar Parashat Ki Tissa Shabbat Parah
10:00 am Esther Revealed Study Session 11:00 am Purim Carnival	5:30 pm Family Megillah Reading and Costume Parade 6:15 pm All Dressed Up and Someplace to Go Festive Meal \$ © 7:00 pm. Purim Spiel 7:45 pm Full Megillah Reading	6:45 am Full Megillah Reading 8:00 am Jewish Essays 11:00 am Jewish Thought 6:30 pm Tradition and Change at 50	10:30 am Parenting Workshop 11:30 am Doing Jewish 7:00 pm Cantorial Search Town Meeting	8:00 am Mishnah Musings 11:00 am Lunch 'n' Learn	Children's Birthday Service 6:15 pm Friday Evening Service	No Hebrew School 8:45 am Parashat Hashavua 9:15 am Sanctuary Service 6:00 pm Mincha
15 19 Adar	16 20 Adar Haggadah Fair	I Z 21 Adar Haggadah Fair	18 22 Adar Haggadah Fair	19 23 Adar Haggadah Fair	20 24 Adar Candle lighting: 6:49 pm Haggadah Fair	21 25 Adar Parashar Va-vak-hel, Shabbat Ha Hodesh
10:00 am Cantorial Search Town Meeting	6:30 pm Siddur Hebrew I 6:30 pm Modern Hebrew II 6:30 pm Siddur Hebrew II 7:30 pm Modern Hebrew I 7:30 pm Modern Hebrew II	Food Drive Begins 8:00 am Jewish Essays 11:00 pm Yiddish Club 6:30 pm Tradition and Change at 50	The state of the s	8:00 am Mishnah Musings 11:00 am Lunch 'n' Learn 7:00 pm MC Wine Tasting	6:15 pm Friday Night Special: Shabbat Musical Service Followed by Dinner Special Singles Service and Kiddush	No Hebrew School 8:45 am Parashat Hashavua 9:15 am Sanctuary Service 9:30 am Havurah Service 6:00 pm Mincha
22 26 Adar	23 27 Adər Haggadah Fair	24 28 Adar Haggadah Fair	25 29 Adar Haggadah Fair	26 1 Nisan Rosh Hodesh Nisan Haggadah Fair	27 2 Nisan Candle lighting: 6:57 pm Haggadah Fair	28 3 Nisan Parashat Va-yikra
	6:30 pm Siddur Hebrew I 6:30 pm Modern Hebrew II 6:30 pm Siddur Hebrew II 7:30 pm Modern Hebrew I 7:30 pm Modern Hebrew II 8:00 pm Book Discussion Group	8:00 am Jewish Essays 11:00 am Jewish Thought 1:00 pm Sisterhood Film: Claude Monet 6:30 pm Tradition and Change at 50 at 50	7:30 pm Moonbeams	8:00 am Mishnah Musings 11:00 am Lunch 'n' Learn	6:15 pm Friday Evening Service	No Hebrew School 8:45 am Parashat Hashavua 9:15 am Sanctuary Service 11:15 am Tot Shabbat 6:00 pm Mincha
29 4 Nisan Haggadah Fair	30 5 Nisan	31 6 Nisan				
10::00 am Passover Family Ат Workshop 10:00 am Re-Telling the Story	4:00 pm CS Model Seders 6:30 pm Siddur Hebrew I 6:30 pm Modern Hebrew II 7:30 pm Siddur Hebrew II 7:30 pm Modern Hebrew II 7:30 pm Modern Hebrew II	8:00 am Jewish Essays 11:00 am Jewish Thought 4:00 pm CS Model Seder 5:45 pm Women's Seder 6:30 pm Insights into the Haggadah 8:00 pm Out of the Talmud	EXCEPT AS NOTED Dail	ly Minyan Monday-Friday at 7:15 am; Sunde 	nys and Legal l Hashkama	Holidays at 9:00 am. Saturdays and Yom Tov at 7:30 am.
P.A	.S. Calendar of Events	ints MARCH 2009	Adar/Nisan 5769 Inf	Information is subject to change. Co	Confirm at www.pasyn.org or with the office.	e office.



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Just send an e-mail to Lynn Schneider, at lschneider@pasyn.org, and she will take care of everything.

A Look Ahead

Friday, May 1 | 5:00 pm | Young Families Shabbat Service and Tiny Treasures 1st Birthday Celebration followed by Shabbat dinner

Details forthcoming in the next bulletin but please mark your calendars.

Contact Event Co-Chairs Emily Gindi (Emily.gindi@gmail.com), Lauren Furstenburg (laurenfurstenberg@yahoo.com) or Amy Steiner (amy.steiner@yahoo.com) or Natalie Barth h: 212-600-0422 c: 917-445-3813.

Organized by the Young Couples Group in cooperation with the Clergy and the Department of Lifelong Learning.

Sunday, June 7 | 6:00 pm | A very special event is being planned to celebrate our beloved Cantor David Lefkowitz as he retires. Please mark your calendars. Details to follow